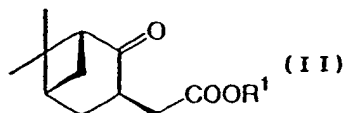
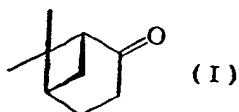


### Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound (II):

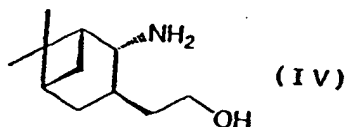


wherein R¹ is alkyl, which comprises reacting a compound (I):

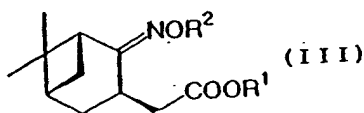


with XCH₂COOR¹ wherein X is halogen, and R¹ is as defined above in the presence of an additive selected from the group consisting of N,N'-dimethylpropyleneurea and 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone and a base.

Claim 2. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (IV):

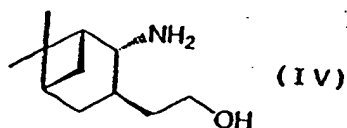


which comprises reducing a compound (III):

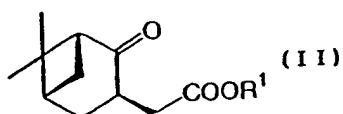


wherein R¹ is as defined above, and R² is hydrogen or alkyl, with an aluminum hydride.

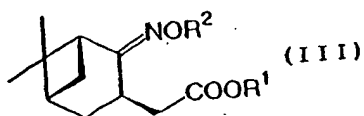
Claim 3. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (IV):



which comprises reacting a compound (II):

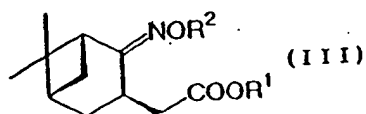


wherein R<sup>1</sup> is as defined above, with NH<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>2</sup> wherein R<sup>2</sup> is as defined above to give a compound (III):

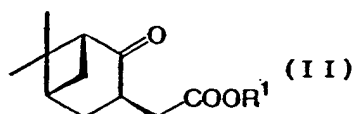


wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are as defined above, and reducing the compound (III) with an aluminum hydride.

Claim 4. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (III):

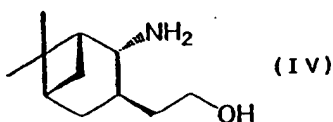


wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are as defined above, which comprises preparing a compound (II):

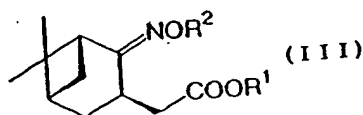


wherein  $R^1$  is as defined above, through the process according to claim 1, and reacting the compound (II) with  $NH_2OR^2$  wherein  $R^2$  is as defined above.

Claim 5. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (IV):



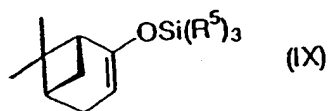
which comprises preparing a compound (III):



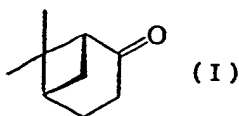
wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are as defined above through the process according to claim 4, and reducing the compound (III) with an aluminum hydride.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 2, 3 or 5~~ claim 2 wherein the aluminum hydride is prepared by reacting a Lewis acid with lithium aluminum hydride or reacting concentrated sulfuric acid with lithium aluminum hydride.

Claim 7. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (IX):

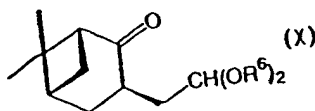


wherein  $R^5$  each is independently alkyl, which comprises reacting a compound (I):

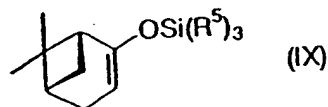


with  $(R^5)_3SiX$  wherein  $R^5$  is as defined above, and X is halogen, in the presence of a base.

Claim 8. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (X):

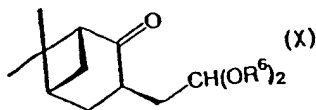


wherein  $R^6$  each is independently alkyl, which comprises reacting a compound (IX):

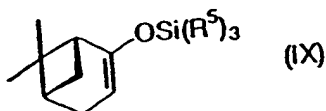


wherein  $R^5$  each is independently alkyl, with  $CH_2=CHOR^6$  wherein  $R^6$  is as defined above in the presence of ceric ammonium nitrate (IV) in a solvate of  $R^6OH$  wherein  $R^6$  is as defined above.

Claim 9. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (X):



wherein  $R^6$  is as defined above, which comprises preparing a compound (IX):



wherein  $R^5$  is as defined above through the process according to claim 7, and reacting the compound (IX) with  $CH_2=CHOR^6$  wherein  $R^6$  is as defined above in the presence of ceric ammonium nitrate (IV) in a solvent of  $R^6OH$  wherein  $R^6$  is as defined above.

Claims 10-13. (Cancel)

Claim 14. (New) The process according to claim 3 wherein the aluminum hydride is prepared by reacting a Lewis acid with lithium aluminum hydride or reacting concentrated sulfuric acid with lithium aluminum hydride.

Claim 15. (New) The process according to claim 5 wherein the aluminum hydride is prepared by reacting a Lewis acid with lithium aluminum hydride or reacting concentrated sulfuric acid with lithium aluminum hydride.